

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on June 3, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 24 are amended, claim 9 is canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-8 and 10-24 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to independent claims 1, 14, 17, and 24 incorporate at least one of the elements (e.g., the L-shaped housing and the conductor that can be connected to the control interface of the scanning device) identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14, 17, and 24, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, 16, 19-21, and 24 were objected to for various reasons. Appropriate corrections have been made to these claims and are discussed in more detail below. According, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurata, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,518,999).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, in the interest of moving this case to issuance, Applicant has amended independent claim 24 to recite at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references in an effort to more timely receive a notice of allowance for the pending claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter recited in claim 24 prior to the instant amendments in one or more continuation applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 24 recites elements not found in the Kurata reference, therefore, independent claim 24 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Additionally, the Examiner objected to independent claim 24 stating that in lines 3-4, "said method comprising the steps of" is improper and that the last two "means" claims are believed to be the same thing. Appropriate correction has been made. According, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurata, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,518,999).

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurata, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,518,999) in view of well known art.

For the reasons provided above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 14, and 17, as amended, are in condition for allowance. That is, independent claims 1, 14, and 17 contain at least one element identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by Kurata or other cited art.

As such, each and every element and limitation is not provided in the reference nor the other cited art, either independently or in combination, to support a § 103 rejection of claims 1, 14, and 17. Claims 3-6 and 10 depend from allowable independent claim 1; claim 15 depends from allowable independent claim 14; and claims 18 and 22-23 depend from allowable claim 17. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 23 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 11-13.

Claims 2 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, the amendments made to claims 1, 14, 17, and 24 incorporate at least one of the elements (e.g., the L-shaped housing and the conductor that can be connected to the control interface of the scanning device) identified by the Examiner as not being disclosed by the cited references. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 14, 17, and 24, and the claims depending therefrom, are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 8, 16, and 19-21 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections(s) set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Appropriate corrections have been made to claims 7, 16, and 19 to overcome the objections of the Examiner.

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner was correct in determining that the version of claim 7 presented in the last Amendment and Response was different than was previously presented. The Examiner is thanked for identifying this inconsistency. The difference was due to a typographical error in creating the Amendment and Response and, amendment of the claim was not intended. Accordingly, Applicant has provided the original version of claim 7 in the claimset provided herein.

Claims 8, 20, and 21 are dependent upon one of claims 7 or 19 and, therefore, claims 7, 8, 16, and 19-21 are deemed allowable based upon their dependency to an allowable independent claim.

Based upon the discussion of the claims provided above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims 1-8 and 10-24.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 14th day of July, 2004.

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